

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A virtual management system for a data center, comprising:
 - a management topology presenting devices, log servers, facilities, subscribers and services as objects to an administrative interface; and
 - a configuration manager implementing changes to objects in the topology responsive to configuration input from an administrator via the administrative interface.
2. The virtual management system of claim 1 wherein said administrative interface comprises a graphical user interface.
3. The virtual management system of claim 1 wherein said administrative interface comprises a command line interface.
4. The virtual management system of claim 2 wherein said administrative interface is provided by a host computer coupled to the configuration manager by a network.
5. The virtual management system of claim 4 wherein the network is part of the data center.
6. The virtual management system of claim 4 wherein the network includes a wide area network.

7. The virtual management system of claim 4 wherein the network includes the Internet.

8. The virtual management system of claim 1 wherein the management topology includes a topology hierarchy of parent and children objects.

9. The virtual management system of claim 8 wherein said hierarchy is organized by facilities parent, and each facility object includes children objects of subscribers, log servers, devices and services objects.

10. The virtual management system of claim 8 wherein said hierarchy is organized by subscribers parent objects, and each subscriber object includes services children.

11. The virtual management system of claim 8 wherein said hierarchy is organized by services parent object, and each service object includes children objects of subscribers, facilities and devices.

12. The virtual management system of claim 8 wherein said hierarchy is organized by a devices parent object, and each device object includes children objects of subscribers, services and facilities.

13. The virtual management system of claim 1 wherein the administrative interface is accessible from outside of the data center.

14. The virtual management system of claim 1 wherein the administrative interface is accessible by a subscriber.

23. The virtual management system of claim 1 wherein the configuration manager comprises a server and an agent in a service device.

30. The system of claim 28 wherein the subscriber management interface presents services relative to the subscriber object.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein the device management interface presents facilities, services and subscribers relative to the device object.

32. The system of claim 28 wherein the facility management interface presents devices, subscribers, and services relative to the facility object.

33. The system of claim 28 wherein access to management of objects in each interface is governed by an administrative hierarchy.

34. The system of claim 28 wherein the interfaces and the controller are coupled via a wide area network.

35. The system of claim 28 wherein the interfaces are provided in a graphical user interface.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein each said interface is linked to a content service application and a service module coupled to a device agent to administer changes in the device via the device agent.

37. The system of claim 28 wherein each of said interfaces communicates with the configuration controller via the Internet.

38. An interface for a network, comprising:
a graphical user interface presenting a plurality of network items as objects within the interface;
service applications coupled to the graphical user interface objects, the applications controlling configuration of network objects responsive to the user interface; and
a network manager interacting with devices on the network to implement changes provided by the service applications.

39. The interface of claim 38 wherein the objects include a subscriber object.

40. The interface of claim 38 wherein the objects include a device object.

41. The interface of claim 38 wherein the objects include a service object.

42. The interface of claim 41 wherein the service applications are launched by one or more service objects.

43. The interface of claim 41 wherein the service applications are hosted by the network manager.

44. The interface of claim 38 wherein the objects include a facility object.

45. The interface of claim 38 wherein the network manager comprises a network management server and a device agent.

46. The interface of claim 38 wherein the management server provides said graphical user interface to a user device.

47. The interface of claim 38 object management interface and having a plurality of configuration applications and configurations storage for objects coupled to the network.

48. The interface of claim 38 wherein the graphical user interface is provided in a Web browser.

49. The interface of claim 38 wherein the graphical user interface is coupled to the manager via a Wide area network.

50. A graphical network interface for a data center, comprising:
a plurality of object views, including:

- a facility object view,
- a subscriber object view,
- a device object view, and
- a log server object view,

each said view including a set objects organized by a hierarchy relative to another of said views; and

at least one link to an object in said set of objects, allowing modification of configuration data for the object via the view.

51. The graphical network interface of claim 50 wherein said facility view includes at least a subscriber branch or a device branch or a log server branch.

52. The graphical network interface of claim 50 wherein said subscriber view includes at least a device branch, a log server branch or a facilities branch.

53. The graphical network interface of claim 50 wherein said device view includes at least a facilities view.

54. The graphical network interface of claim 50 wherein said interface is provided in a Web browser.

55. The graphical network interface of claim 50 wherein said interface is provided as machine readable code for an administrative device.

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